

REMARKS**Status of the Claims**

Upon entry of the amendment above, claims 21, 22, 29-32, 37-39, 42, 51-55, 58, and 72-79 will be pending, claims 73 and 74 being independent.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 73, 25, 29, 30-32, 37-39, 41, 42, and 51-55 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 74-79 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 25, 29, 30-32, 37-39, 41, 42, and 51-55 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph.

Claims 75-79 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph.

Response to the Office Action

In response to the two rejections for alleged indefiniteness, Applicants have amended their claims above in a way that is believed to resolve the issues raised in the rejections.

In this regard, Applicants have amended independent claim 73 by deleting "significantly" (*i.e.*, "... fibers of the core having a mechanical strength ~~significantly~~ lower than a mechanical strength of at least a portion of the fibers of at least one of the two layers"). In addition, in lieu of the expression "significantly lower" in

referencing the fibers of the core in terms of their mechanical strength, Applicants have added the subject matter of dependent claim 25, which identifies those fibers of the core that have such mechanical strength. In any event, with the deletion of the term "significantly," Applicants request that the rejection for indefiniteness, as it applies to this issue, be withdrawn.

Further, Applicants have amended independent claim 74 by deleting reference to "the predetermined magnitude." In so doing, Applicants submit that the claim has been clarified. In any event, Applicants submit that the rejection for alleged indefiniteness has been overcome.

In addition to the foregoing amendments to independent claims 73 and 74, which are believed to fully respond to the two rejections, Applicants have made amendments which are deemed necessary upon entry of those amendments.

Specifically, claims 30, 31, 32 have been amended to change their dependencies from claim 25 (now canceled upon the incorporation of its subject matter into claim 73) to claim 73, and claim 72 has been amended to delete reference to a predeterminate magnitude, in view of the amendment to parent claim 74.

In addition, a minor amendment ("being" to "are") has been made to claim 22.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION


Allowance of the instant application is kindly requested in view of the amendment and explanation presented above, which are believed to address and resolve issues raised in connection with the grounds of rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

No fee is believed to be due at this time. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee required for acceptance of this reply as timely and complete to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Further, although no extension of time is believed to be necessary at this time, if it were to be found that an extension of time were necessary to render this reply timely and/or complete, Applicants request an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136(a) in the necessary increment(s) of month(s) to render this reply timely and/or complete and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary extension of time fee under 37 CFR §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone or fax number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
Philippe RENARD et al.


James L. Rowland
Reg. No. 32,674

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191

703-716-1191 (telephone)
703-716-1180 (fax)